(c) the total funds allotted by Government for the purpose during the current financial year and Ninth Plan; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no exclusive scheme for unemployed youth. However, under the 'Special Package for Coffee Development in North-East Region' during the IXth Five Year Plan, a total area of 3650 ha. is proposed to be covered in Assam. The areas brought under Coffee are mainly located in Karbianglong, North Cachar Hills and Golpara Districts of Assam State.

(c) For implementation of the above package in the entire North-Eastern Region, an amount of Rs. 11.07 crores and Rs. 2.20 crores has been allocated for IXth Five Year Plan and current financial year (1998-99) respectively.

(d) For monitoring extension and coffee developmental activities in the North-Eastern Region, the Board has its extension network in this region. Further, a post of Joint Director (Extension) with Headquarters at Shilong and Senior Liason Officer at Tura have also been created during 1997 for overseeing implementation of the Special Area Programme. The programme is being implemented in close coordination with State Govt. agencies like the Forest Development Corporation, Soil Conservation Department and the North East Council.

Secretary Level talks between India and Nepal

2350. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretary level talks between India and Nepal on checking the unauthorised trade across the open border were held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Indo-Nepalese transit treaty has been further renewed; and

(d) if so, the details of joint efforts made by India and Nepal to check illegal trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Nepal were held in New Delhi on 17—20 November, 1998. The focus of discussions was on renewal of Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit which was to expire on 5th January 1998. It has been agreed to renew the existing Treaty of Transit with mutually agreed modifications. Pending the formal renewal of Treaty of Transit, it has been agreed that the validity of the existing Treaty shall be extended by one month i.e. upto 5th January, 1999 or till the date of its formal renewal whichever is earlier.

The need for checking the unauthorised trade across the Indo-Nepal border was also underlined during the discussions and the two Governments agreed to cooperate with each other to control it.

Export Warehousing Scheme

2351. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently cleared the proposal for export warehousing scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and likely impact thereof;

(c) the details of other fresh initiatives taken under consideration to boost up exports; and

(d) the details of system reforms effected/under consideration for export promotion during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export warehousing scheme was notified under Export & Import Policy issued on 13.4.98. The scheme allows the

setting up of Private Bonded Warehouses by foreign departmental stores, Star Trading Houses , Super Star Trading Houses, Such a warehouses can procure goods from domestic suppliers without payment of excise duty. The domestic suppliers would be entitled usual benefit of exports. The move will encourage domestic sourcing of the products by foreign producers.

(c) and (d) Several initiatives have been taken for export promotion and simplification of procedures which amongst others include bonded warehouses for imports, grant of Advance Licence to Actual Users on positive value addition, fixation of DEPB rates as well as grant of Advance Licences on self certification are decentralisation of powers to licensing authorities.

Trade Agreement for the North-Eastern States

2352. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for opening another trade agreement in the international boundary of the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, where and with which countries and by when will it be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No. Sir. At present no fresh trade agreement is under consideration of the Government of India on border trade in the international boundary of the north-eastern States of India.

Trade with Indonesia

2353. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Indonesia to buy Non-Basmati Rice and Medicines on loan or Counter Trading Basis; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Based on an indication of interest of Indonesian Government to buy non-basmati rice and medicines on counter trade or loan basis a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce comprising Chief Executives of the Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation Ltd. (STC) and The Projects & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd. (PEC) visited Indonesia on 13-14 July, 1998 and had discussions with the Indonesian authorities. Based on the discussions, Ministry of Commerce have sent a proposal in September, 1998 to Indonesian Goverrment for supply of 5,00,000 MT of non-basmati rice through MMTC on deferred payment basis.

STC has also submitted an offer in August, 1998 to Indonesian authorities for supply of pharmaceutical and medical disposable items. Response of the Indonesian authorities on above proposal is awaited.

Industries functioning in Gujarat

2354. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the industries functioning in Gujarat;

(b) how many out of them are functioning by the private companies;

(c) whether the funds are allocated by Government/State Government/ Voluntary organisation to run these industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are encouraging the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) In the State of Gujarat, there are a total number of 216318 registered Small Scale Industries units and 2196 medium and large scale sector industries, as on 31.7.98.

(b) All small scale industries units are run by private parties and 2151 large